

16 December 1957

Mr. Beaumont Newhall, Editor
 Image
 George Eastman House
 900 East Avenue, Rochester 7, N. Y.

Dear Beaumont:

Now that color photographs have twice been published in IMAGE, the second time with a statement by Ansel Adams asserting a negative point of view towards color photography as a creative medium, would it not next be appropriate to reproduce photographs by one who believes in the creative potential of the medium; who even more positively believes that color photography is already demonstrably, to the same degree as black and white photography, a method of art? The examples of Mr. Adams' work published in the November issue seem to have been chosen to support his statement that he has not seen or produced a color photograph that fulfills his concept of the objectives of art, unless, alternatively, his opinion is founded on his limited experience and creative ability in this activity. I do not dispute his evaluation of his own work which impresses me as being hardly more than color versions of typical Ansel Adams black and white photographs. He even seems to fall into the temptation - along with his associate Mr. Pirkle Jones, examples of whose color photography were reproduced in the March issue - of taking advantage of superficially exciting color to the extent of making it red - or even going that one better by making it Red White and Blue - in lieu of merit.

Because Mr. Adams wields a powerful influence in photography, generally, owing to his domination of the San Francisco school and his technical achievements it would be a pity to allow this almost oracular statement to stand unchallenged when his opinion seems so patently founded on lack of interest. He has said on many several occasions, shrugging off serious consideration of color photography, that he is no "colorist", and has gone on from there to extol the beauties and creative possibilities of his chosen medium about which there is no dispute. As an answer to Mr. Adams more effective than words I would greatly appreciate the opportunity of having three or four of my color photographs published in IMAGE.

Very sincerely yours,